



**TOWN OF SHIRLEY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
7 Keady Way, Shirley, MA 01464

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MEETING MINUTES

Shirley Town Office 1st Floor – Board of Select Board Meeting Room February 08, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: JM called to order at 6:37 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer McGuinness (JM), Chair; Bob Burkhardt (BB), Vice Chair; Susan Gillham (SG), Member; and Marie Elwyn (ME) via ZOOM, Member

NOT PRESENT: Cindy Phelps via ZOOM, Member; Betsy Colburn-Mirkovic, Associate Member; and Heidi Ricci, Associate Member

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Fleming (MF), Conservation Agent; and via ZOOM - Sherry Anders (SA), Greenway Committee; Alison Milliman (AM), BSC Group for New England Power Company; and Maurice Wentworth (MW), 9 Munson Avenue

ANNOUNCEMENT: JM read announcement - *This meeting is being recorded and may be shown live on the local broadcast channel by Shirley Media and recorded for internet access. The Town has tested our ability to cablecast a live meeting on Channel 99, and it is functioning. This will permit anyone to view a live Cablecast meeting as it occurs on channel 99. Those who do not have Comcast can also watch live by going to the Shirley Media website: <https://www.shirleymedia.org/>*

Once you are at the Shirley Media website you will see at the top of the screen a row of tabs indicating different services and channels. You need to click on the tab that says LIVE. The live tab will show what is currently streaming live on channel 99 - if a meeting is live it will be shown live.

This meeting is being recorded using an audio recorder and video recorded via ZOOM. Any audience member recording (audio or video) must notify the Chair. The items listed on this agenda are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may, in fact, be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Everyone participating via ZOOM is asked to type in their name and address (Shirley residents) or affiliation in the Chat. Everyone participating in-person is asked to sign in on the sign-in sheet at the meeting room entrance.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW / APPROVAL: JM opened discussion.

- January 25, 2022 (review, approve, & signatures): MF reviewed with CC members. CC members discussed. JM ask for motion to approve the minutes. **M/S/V** - Motion by BB, 2nd by SG to approve the minutes. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM - y. Motion passed unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: JM opened discussion.

- Bills / Invoices / Reimbursements
 - Nashoba Valley Voice / Legal Ad / NOI / New England Power Company / \$245.52: MF reviewed with CC members. CC members discussed. JM ask for motion to pay the bill. **M/S/V** - Motion by SG, 2nd by BB to pay the bill for the NOI legal Ad. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM - y. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Nashoba Valley Voice / Legal Ad / RDA / Massachusetts Electric Company / \$153.12: MF reviewed with CC members. CC members discussed. JM ask for motion to pay the bill. **M/S/V** - Motion by SG, 2nd by BB to pay the bill for the NOI legal Ad. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM - y. Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET: JM opened discussion.

- Warrant Article(s) / Annual Town Meeting / Conservation Land Acquisition Fund: MF read drafted Warrant Article. CC members discussed. JM ask for motion to approve the minutes. **M/S/V** - Motion by SG, 2nd by ME to approve the Warrant Article, with appropriate account numbers, and submit to the Town Administrator as a Warrant Article to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM - y. Motion passed unanimously. JM suggested putting together a list of expenses (a package) that demonstrates the need for the funds at Select Board meeting, Finance Committee meeting, and Annual Town Meeting. MF discussed monthly reports from Town Accountant. MF suggested obtaining an accounting spreadsheet from the Town Accountant that includes the expenses

related to the current fiscal year and the Morse L.A.N.D grant project. SA will check to see if a rough budget for this year's L.A.N.D. grant can be put together.

NEW WETLANDS BUSINESS: JM opened discussion.

- Notice of Intent / K137-L138 Transmission Line / New England Power Company / BSC Group: The proposed project consists of general maintenance activities & improvements necessary to install optical ground wire (OPGW) along the K137/L138 transmission line. The proposed project includes activities within the following: Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), 100-ft Buffer Zone to BVW, 200-ft Riverfront Area RA), FEMA 100-year Floodplain/Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, (ACEC), Zone II Wellhead Protection Area, and Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority/ Estimated Habitat. The proposed project also includes activities within the Shirley Non-Zoning Wetlands Bylaw 25-ft No Disturb Zone and 40-ft No Build Zone: JM opened Public Hearing at 6:56 PM. JM read agenda item. MF read Legal Notice. SG disclosed that she was an abutter and did not participate in the discussion nor vote on the matter. JM introduced Alison Milliman, BSC Group, representative for New England Power Company. Alison Milliman reviewed NOI with CC members. CC members discussed. JM asked if there were any questions from the general audience. Maurice Wentworth asked what are the "Pull Pads" and are they temporary. Alison Milliman provided response (for line tensioning equipment and they are temporary). JM asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. CC members voted. **M/S/V** - Motion by BB, 2nd by ME to close the public hearing. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, and JM - y. Motion passed.

OLD WETLANDS BUSINESS: JM opened discussion.

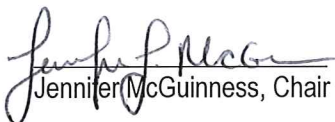
- Enforcement Order - 44 Horse Pond Road (63-A-26) / OOC #284-0430 / Shawn Hillman: Nothing reported.

OTHER CONSERVATION BUSINESS: JM opened discussion.

- Longley Acres
 - 5-year License Agreements / House & Barn / Hay Fields / Insurance / status: Nothing reported.
 - House / Barn Maintenance / Carpentry, Painting, etc. / status: Nothing reported.
 - Community Garden / Caretaker Responsibilities / Draft Flyer / Ground Rules for 2022: MF reviewed changes made, after discussing with Kim Hampson via phone and e-mail, and informed the CC that the 2022 flyer, application, and ground rules have been posted.
- Forest Management: MF commented on the upcoming February 15th meeting with SG, ME, and possibly SA to move things forward.
 - Pumpkin Brook Link Conservation Area / Turtle Habitat / status
 - DCR Community Forest Implementation Grant / Post-harvesting Outreach & Education
- Land Management
 - Pumpkin Brook Link Conservation Area / MassWildlife request for use of old landing area for Squannacook WMA Ecological Restoration Project: Nothing reported.
 - Conservation Restrictions / Annual Monitoring / Intern Summary Report - Recommendations / Mr. Mapper - Assessors: MF reported that it would take time to create a spreadsheet with the information needed to obtain a cost estimate from MRPC.
- Greenway Committee
 - Community Garden (Bemis): Nothing reported.
 - Invasive Species (Volunteer Group/Grants): Nothing reported.
 - Student Conservation Association / AmeriCorps: Nothing reported.
 - Land Acquisition / MA EEA L.A.N.D. Grant: SA provided update. Challenging part of the project has been communicating with the owners.
 - Conservation Land Acquisition Fund / Legal Services / research Probate documents, communicate with Probate Counsel, determine any Probate restrictions, report back and make recommendations to Conservation Commission: not to exceed \$300.00, without prior authorization from the Conservation Commission: SA reviewed proposal with CC members. CC members discussed. JM asked for a motion. **M/S/V** - Motion by SG, 2nd by BB to approve to pay up to \$300 for Janet Morrison's legal services to research Probate documents, communicate with Probate Counsel, determine any Probate restrictions or conditions, and report back and make recommendations to the Conservation Commission. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM - y. Motion passed unanimously.
- Town Permits: MF reported that the project is not subject to the WPA or the Shirley Non-Zoning Wetlands Bylaw.
 - 45 Squannacook Road (113-B-7) / Cannava / Building Permit / Buffer Zone

- Conservation Commission Vacancies (2): JM announced vacancies. MF reported having been contacted by someone interested in serving on the CC. MF will follow-up on this.
- Miscellaneous and not reasonably anticipated items: JM opened discussion on the items below. JM asked if anyone had anything, they wish to bring to the attention of the Conservation Commission.
 - Shirley Non-zoning Wetland Bylaws / Fines / Citations: Nothing reported.
 - Conservation Database update / expenses: Nothing reported.
 - Conservation Secretary position: Nothing reported.
 - Internships: Nothing reported.
- Upcoming / Past Events & Meetings: JM announced meetings / events. JM asked if anyone had a meeting or event they would like to announce.
 - Shirley Conservation Commission / Shirley Town Office Building / 1st floor / February 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM
 - 7th Annual Open Space Conference / Webinar Series & Online Networking / Thursday's in February: 10th, 17th, 24th / Webinars 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM – Networking 1:35 PM – 2:20 PM / Information & Registration available at: www.massopenspace.org
 - MACC Annual Conference (Virtual) / Week of March 1 – 12 / Save the Dates / \$150.00 Registration Fee / https://www.maccweb.org/general/custom.asp?page=EDVirtualAEC-Conf_2022: MF requested the CC approve paying the registration fee for MF to participate in the conference. CC members discussed. JM asked for a motion to approve paying the registration fee for MF to participate in the MACC Annual Conference. **M/S/V** - Motion by SG, 2nd by BB to approve paying the registration fee for MF to participate in the MACC Annual Conference. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM – y. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Massachusetts Land Conference (Virtual / Field) / March 24 – 26 / \$55.00 Registration Fee / <https://massland.org/conference>: MF requested the CC approve paying the registration fee for MF to participate in the conference. CC members discussed. JM asked for a motion to approve paying the registration fee for MF to participate in the Massachusetts Land Conference. **M/S/V** - Motion by SG, 2nd by BB to approve paying the registration fee for MF to participate in the Massachusetts Land Conference. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, BB – y, SG – y, and JM – y. Motion passed unanimously.

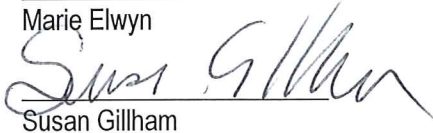
ADJOURNMENT: JM asked for a motion to adjourn. **M/S/V** - Motion by BB, 2nd by SG to adjourn. JM asked CC members to vote. Roll call of vote: ME – y, SG – y, BB – y, and JM – y. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.


Jennifer McGuinness, Chair


Robert Burkhardt, Vice Chair

Marie Elwyn

Cynthia Phelps


Susan Gillham

Vacant

Vacant

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer McGuinness, Chair

Received

FEB 28 2022

Shirley Town Clerk

APPROVED BY SHIRLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION ON 2/22/2022
GIVEN TO SHIRLEY TOWN CLERK ON 2/28/2022